

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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SUBJECT: URANIUM EXPLORATION ASSISTANCE

1. U.S. ERDA HAS GIVEN CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THE VARIOUS REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN URANIUM EXPLORATION FIELD SET FORTH IN TEHRAN 6679. AS DR. ETEMAD IS AWARE, ERDA'S NATURAL URANIUM RESOURCE EVALUATION (NURE) PROGRAM IS A TOP PRIORITY PROGRAM REQUIRING A MAXIMUM EFFORT BY ERDA GEOLOGISTS. FOR THIS REASON, IT HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE NOT TO ACCEPT ANY FOREIGN NATIONALS INTO THIS PROGRAM FOR PURPOSES OF TRAINING. WHILE RECOGNIZING IRAN'S GENUINE INTEREST IN IMPROVING THEIR OWN URANIUM EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, ERDA DOES NOT FEEL IT IS POSSIBLE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR IRAN AND ACCEPT THEIR NATIONALS INTO THE NURE PROGRAM FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TRAINING.

2. ERDA, HOWEVER, WOULD BE PLEASED TO HOST AT MUTUALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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CONVENIENT TIMES, VISITS OF URANIUM GEOLOGISTS FOR A

WEEK OR TWO DURING WHICH TIME THEY COULD VISIT ERDA HEADQUARTERS AND VARIOUS FIELD INSTALLATIONS FOR BRIEFINGS ON NURE PROGRAM.

3. THE NEEDS OF THOSE JUNIOR GEOLOGISTS WHO KNOW ENGLISH AND WHO DESIRE TRAINING COULD PROBABLY BE BEST MET BY ENROLLMENT AT AN APPROPRIATE AMERICAN COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AND ERDA WOULD BE GLAD TO SUGGEST APPROPRIATE SCHOOLS IF IT IS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR PREVIOUS TRAINING. TRAINING FOR SENIOR GEOLOGISTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN PETROLEUM GEOLOGY COULD BE HANDLED BY GRADUATE COURSES AT CERTAIN U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND HERE AGAIN ERDA WOULD BE GLAD TO RECOMMEND THE MOST APPROPRIATE SCHOOLS BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY IRAN ON THE INDIVIDUALS. TRAINING FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING JUNIOR GEOLOGISTS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE.

4. AS HAS BEEN INDICATED ABOVE, THE CURRENT HIGH PRIORITY PLACED ON THE NURE PROGRAM BY ERDA PLACES GREAT DEMANDS ON ALL ITS SENIOR GEOLOGISTS, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SPARE SUCH A PERSON FOR A YEAR OR TWO IN IRAN. ERDA AGAIN, HOWEVER, WOULD BE PLEASED TO TRY TO ARRANGE ONE OR TWO TRIPS PER YEAR TO IRAN FOR A SENIOR GEOLOGIST TO CONSULT WITH HIS IRANIAN COUNTERPARTS. TIMING OF SUCH VISITS, OF COURSE, WOULD DEPEND UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF MANPOWER.

5. FINALLY, IF IRAN IS UNABLE TO LOCATE THROUGH U.S. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENTLY IN IRAN, EXPERTS WHO COULD SPEND UP TO A YEAR OR TWO ADVISING ON THEIR EXPLORATION PROGRAM, ERDA WOULD PREPARED TO INVESTIGATE THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH EXPERTS AMONG U.S. FIRMS HERE.

6. IN ADDITION, IRAN MIGHT WISH TO INVESTIGATE WITH U.S. COMPANIES THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING GEOLOGISTS TO WORK WITH U.S. IRANIUM COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES. HABIB

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